

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DECEMBER 1 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. JAPAN

ACCORDING LATEST PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, LDP FACES MAJOR THREAT IN SUNDAY'S ELECTION. FIVE SEPARATE POLLS INDICATE PARTY WILL FAIL WIN WORKABLE MAJORITY IN DIET'S LOWER HOUSE. LOCKHEED, MIKI/TANAKA POWER STRUGGLE, DEFECTING "NEW LIBERAL CLUB" SPLINTER GROUP CITED AS CAUSES PUBLIC'S LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN LDP (NAKAMIKADO, REUTER TOKYO).

MAJOR JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS REPORT GOJ HAS DECIDED ACCEPT US' 200-MILE FISHING LIMIT. FON MINISTRY DECLINED CONFIRM REPORTS, BUT SAID "FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE" WILL BE TAKEN
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IN VIEW MAJORITY OF COUNTRIES RECOGNIZING LIMIT (WSTAR).

FEA REPORT ISSUED TUES STRONGLY OPPOSES SELLING ALASKAN OIL TO JAPAN, SAYS MIGHT INCREASE LIKELIHOOD OF "POLITI-

CALLY MOTIVATED" CUTBACKS BY ARAB OIL STATES AIMED AT US.
ADDS PLAN "INCONSISTENT" W/NATL POLICY TO REDUCE FON OIL
DEPENDENCY, INSURE SUPPLY SECURITY. STUDY SENT TO KEY
GOVS/CONGRESSMEN (ANDEVIL, NYDN; NORDLINGER, SUN; NYT).

GAS EXPLOSION RIPPED THROUGH 9-STORY BLDG IN DOWNTOWN
TOKYO 11/30, INJURING 22. CAUSE UNKNOWN (UPI, WP).

2. INDOCHINA

LAOS CLOSES VIENTIANE AIRPORT/MAIN MEKONG FERRY LINE FOR
2 DAYS, REPORTEDLY DUE CELEBRATIONS MARKING 1ST ANNIVER-
SARY CREATION PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS
(REUTER BANGKOK).

3. INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REFUGEES CONTINUE FLEE VN IN SMALL BOATS; 450 REPORTEDLY
REACHED THAILAND IN OCT, ABOUT SAME NUMBER IN NOV (REUTER
SINGAPORE).

4. THAILAND

THAMMASAT U REOPENS FOR 1ST TIME SINCE COUP; CAMPUS
CLOSELY GUARDED, POL ACTIVITIES BANNED (REUTER BANGKOK).

5. PHILIPPINES

SECSTATE TALKED WITH FONMIN ROMULO IN MEXICO CITY TUES ON
FUTURE US MIL BASES IN PHILS. NO DETAILS GIVEN (REUTER
MEXICO CITY).

6. MALAYSIA

SHELL UNITS SIGN 20-YR PRODUCTION-SHARING AGREEMENT W/
PETRONAS. EXXON EXPECTED SIGN SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT IN DAY
OR 2 (AP, WSJ).
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7. INDONESIA

INDO, VENEZUELA SAY WILL BACK PRICE HIKE AT DEC OPEC MTG
IN QATAR. NEITHER SPECIFIES MAGNITUDE OF INCREASE WILL
SUPPORT (UPI, JOC).

8. NEW ZEALAND

PM MULDOON SAYS DEVALUATION NZ DOL INEVITABLE IN WAKE
AUSSIE DEVALUATION. CHANGE GIVES NZ COMPETITIVE PRICING
EDGE OVER AUSSIE PRODUCTS (JOC SPEC).

9. CHINA

NPC MET TUES NIGHT FOR FIRST TIME SINCE MAO'S DEATH. ONLY DECISION REPORTED BY NCNA WAS ADOPTION OF HUA RESOLUTION TO MAKE CHOU'S WIDOW (TENG-YING-CHAO) VICE CHAIRMAN--WHICH HUA SAID HAD BEEN APPROVED BY MAO (REUTER PEKING).

NCNA REPORTED WEDNESDAY THAT TROOPS HAVE LEFT TANGSHAN EARTHQUAKE-DEVASTATED REGION AFTER COMPLETING MISSION OF "ANTI-QUAKE AND REHABILITATION WORK." ADDED THAT FACTORIES/COAL MINES IN AREA HAVE RESUMED PRODUCTION, PEOPLE MOVED FROM MAKESHIFT SHELTERS INTO NEW ONE-STORY HOUSES, NEW SHOPS/HOTELS/MOVIE HOUSES/BATH HOUSES NOW DOT AREA--AND "FLOURISHING AND VIGOROUS ATMOSPHERE PREVAILS THROUGHOUT" (REUTER HK).

SPEAKING TUES NIGHT AT HK MARCO POLO CLUB'S DINNER BEFORE RECORD AUDIENCE OF 400 JOURNALISTS/DIPLOS/SCHOLARS/BUSINESS COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AUTHORESS HAN SYUIN CRITICIZED "CHINA WATCHERS" FOR HABIT OF INVARIABLY LABELING CHINESE LEADERS EITHER "RADICALS" OR "MODERATES"--EXPERTISE WHICH SHE SAID WAS AGAIN PROVED WRONG IN LATEST POL DEVELOPMENTS. ARGUED THAT THESE TERMS, AS UNDERSTOOD IN SENSE OF EUROPEAN POLITICS, CANNOT BE APPLIED IN CULTURALLY DIFFERENT PRC. CONTENDED MAO PROPOSED MODERNIZATION CONCEPT EARLY AS LATE 1950'S, AND CHOU WAS UNCOMPROMISING REVOLUTIONARY, NEVER MODERATE. PREDICTED "CHINA WATCHERS" ATTEMPTS PUT CHOU ABOVE MAO ON MODERNIZATION UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTION ARE BOUND TO FAIL (SUN).

10. KOREA

KCIA OFFICIAL SEEKING ASYLUM IN US IS MAJOR TV/RADIO/PRESS STORY LAST NIGHT/THIS MORNING. ALL WIRE SERVICES/MAJOR PAPERS CARRY EXTENSIVE STORIES THAT KIM SANG KEUN HAS DEFIED ORDERS RETURN SK, IS "VOLUNTARILY COOPERATING" W/FEDERAL INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED BRIBERY CONGRESSMEN. HIGH-RANKING FED OFFICIAL SAYS KIM REGARDED AS IMPORTANT WITNESS, BUT DECLINES GIVE DETAILS. ANOTHER SOURCE FAMILIAR W/INQUIRY SAYS, "THIS GUY WILL BLOW THE LID OFF THIS CASE." ADDED CAPITOL HILL PEOPLE "ARE GOING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT THIS"(HALLORAN NYT: EXCERPT IN REUTER STORY).

CHESHIRE/ARMSTRONG (WP) QUOTE SOURCE "CLOSE" TO INVESTIGATION THAT KIM "NAMING NAMES," BUT FBI NOT PREPARED SAY

WHO/HOW MANY. FBI AGENTS REPORTEDLY "JUBILANT" ABOUT DEFECTION/TESTIMONY, WHICH REGARDED AS MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH. DOS OFFICIAL SAYS KIM NOT ACTUALLY SEEKING "POLITICAL

ASYLUM," SINCE US DOES NOT OFFER IT TO DEFECTORS FROM FRIENDLY GOVTS, BUT WILL UNDERGO "READJUSTMENT OF HIS VISA STATUS" IN ORDER REMAIN IN US.

SUN ADDS KOREAN EMB ISSUED STATEMENT, W/O ELABORATION, SAYING KIM "NEVER ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM," MADE FACT CLEAR TO "US AUTHORITIES." FON MINISTRY IN SEOUL REFUSED COMMENT. SUN ALSO REPORTS DOS OFFICIALS "CONCERNED WITH TESTIMONY/DEFECTION MIGHT HAVE ON US RELS W/KOREA. GLOBE (AP) QUOTES ONE SOURCE THAT DEFECTION "APPEARS TO BE SOMETHING AKIN TO PLEA BARGAINING."

HOUSE ETHICS CMTE ASKS FORD FOR JUSTICE DEPT AID IN UNDERTAKING CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION SK INFLUENCE-PEDDLING ON CAPITOL HILL. REQUEST SPURRED DEMANDS FOR SUCH INVESTIGATION BY 5 OTHER HOUSE LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES. CMTE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT CHRMN FLYNT SAID IF NO RESPONSE RECEIVED WITHIN NEXT 2 MONTHS, WILL MAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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SAME REQUEST OF CARTER (LYONS, NYT).

OPPENHEIMER (WSTAR 11/30) REPORTS TONGSUN PARK HAS DECIDED NOT RETURN US. COLLEAGUE SAID PARK PLANS SELL US REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, STAY AWAY UNTIL AFTER JUSTICE DEPT INVESTIGATION COMPLETED. ONE JUSTICE SOURCE SAYS PARK NOT SOUGHT FOR PROSECUTION, BUT FOR KNOWLEDGE AS TO HOW MUCH MONEY PASSED THROUGH HIS HANDS, SOURCE.

11. GENERAL

US TREASURY DEPT SAYS TAIWAN HANDBAG IMPORTS BEING SUBSIDIZED BY GROC, IN VIOLATION OF US LAWS ON COUNTERVAILING DUTIES. ADDS THAT IN COMPANION CASE, SIMILAR SK IMPORTS ALSO BEING SUBSIDIZED--BUT SUBSIDIES TOO SMALL TO BE LEGALLY SIGNIFICANT (WSJ).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

12. KOREA

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IN ARTICLE ON US HOUSE SPEAKER CONTEST, BRODER (WP) NOTES MAJORITY WHIP MCFALL WOULD NORMALLY BE MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE, BUT HAS FAILED UNITE OWN CALIF DELEGATION BEHIND HIM. COLLEAGUES FEEL MCFALL SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED BY BELATED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 4,000 DOLS IN GIFTS FROM TONGSUN PARK.

CONRAD CARTOON (LAT 11/29) SHOWS OPEN DOOR W/SIGN, "S KOREA INFLUENCE PEDDLING PROBE," BEHIND WHICH ARE HANDS BUILDING BRICK WALL. CAPTION READS, "THE OPENING OF CONGRESS."

AUTH CARTOON (WP) DEPICTS MATERNITY WARD. JUBILANT FATHER WEARING "CIA" ARMBAND WAVES THROUGH WINDOW TO BABY WHOSE FOOT BEARS TAG MARKED, "KCIA."

13. JAPAN

DIRECTOR HARVARD EA RESEARCH CENTER VOGEL (NYT) STATES CARTER, IN ORDER DEAL EFFECTIVELY/INTELLIGENTLY W/JAPAN, UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOULD BECOME FAMILIAR W/ITS DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. SAYS DOS HAS "SUPERB GROUP OF SPECIALISTS" ON JAPANESE POLITICS, OF WHICH NEW ADMIN SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE; BUT COMMERCE/TREASURY "SOBERLY LACKING" IN OFFICIALS WHO KNOW LANGUAGE/CONTEXT IN WHICH THEIR JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS WORK. CONCLUDES EVEN IF LDP WINS MAJORITY IN LOWER HOUSE, CARTER "MAY WELL FACE" COALITION GOVT BEFORE HIS TERM OVER. THEREFORE, NEW ADMIN SHOULD HELP BRING JAPANESE OPPOSITION LEADERS INTO CLOSER CONTACT WITH PEOPLE/ISSUES IN INTL POLITICS.

14. CHINA

AT TUES WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, SPONSORED BY COALITION OF 19 PRIVATE ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS, PANEL CHINA EXPERTS URGED US POLICYMAKERS BE WARY OF SUGGESTIONS THAT NEW PEKING LEADERSHIP DESIRES PERMANENT FRIENDLY TIES WITH US; CAUTIONED THAT NEW CHINESE LEADERS, NO MATTER HOW MODERATE THEY MIGHT SEEM, VIEW BOTH US/SOVIET AS ENEMIES. ACCORDING RAY CLINE, NEW PRC LEADERS LOOK ON WORLD DOMINATED BY TWO SUPERPOWERS, AND PEKING'S POLICY IS TO "SIT ON THE MOUNTAIN AND WATCH THE TIGERS FIGHT," AS PRESCRIBED BY MAO. HARVARD'S RBT BOWIE SAID NEW PRC LEADERSHIP FEELS THERE WOULD BE ONLY MINIMAL BENEFIT FROM SEVERANCE US-ROC TIES; PREDICTED PEKING WILL CONTINUE ACTING OUT OF SELF INTEREST, NOT SENSE OF GRATITUDE TO

US. ADDED THAT ANY US EFFORT NORMALIZE RELS WITH PRC AT TAIWAN'S EXPENSE WOULD RAISE DOUBTS ABOUT US RESOLVE TO STAND BY OTHER ALLIES.

AMERICAN U'S MICHAEL LINDSAY CONTENDED NEW PRC LEADERS FEAR CHINESE PEOPLE, HAVE SET UP HUGE SECURITY ORGANIZATION TO KEEP POPULACE UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE. DISCUSSION COORDINATOR CHAS MOSHER SAID CONFERENCE TIMED TO HELP INCOMING CARTER ADMIN FORMULATE ITS CHINA POLICY (REUTER 11/30). SUN'S WU (HK) SAYS TENG YING-CHAO'S ELEVATION TO NPC WAS "OBVIOUS POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE" TO CHOU. ADDS THAT FORMAL REMOVAL "GANG OF FOUR" FROM HIGH GOVT/MIL POSITIONS IS FOREGONE CONCLUSION.

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REUTER'S GRIFFITHS (PEKING 11/30) REPORTS "RELIABLE SOURCES" THERE SAYING TUES NIGHT THAT CHIAO KUAN-HUA IS IN POL DIFFICULTIES, UNDERGOING CRITICISM. SAYS SOURCES GAVE NO DETAILS OF ACCUSATIONS, BUT LEFT NO DOUBT HIS POL DIFFICULTIES SERIOUS. GRIFFITHS CITES NCNA REPORT THAT HUANG HUA RECALLED FROM UN--SAYS PEKING ANALYSTS CAN- NOT REMEMBER AGENCY EVER BEFORE ANNOUNCING RECALL OF AMB; NOTES SPECULATION HUNG MAY REPLACE CHIAO, AND THAT "OPPORTUNISM" MAY BE AMONG CRITICISMS LEVELLED AGAINST CHIAO AND WIFE. BUT GRIFFITHS CAUTIONS FACT CHIAO UNDER- GOING CRITICISM DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN HE WILL LOSE JOB, SINCE CHINESE MEDIA RECENTLY WARNED AGAINST WIDE- SPREAD PURGES OF CHIANG CHING FOLLOWERS.

WP'S MATHEWS (HK) SUGGESTS NPC STANDING CMTE MEETING IS APPARENT ATTEMPT STRAIGHTEN OUT GOVT HIERARCHY, INCLUDING FILLING CMTE CHAIRMANSHIP. THINKS CMTE'S ACTIONS MAY CON- FIRM REPORTS THAT GOVT LEADERS LIKE YU HUI-YUNG/CHIAO KUAN-HUA HAVE COME UNDER ATTACK FOR TIES TO "GANG OF FOUR."

BUTTERFIELD (NYT HK) REPORTS ANALYSTS DOUBT REPORTED POL DIFFICULTIES OF CHIAO AND RECALL OF 6 AMBASSADORS IN LAST FEW DAYS PORTEND SIGNIFICANT FOPOLICY CHANGES. BELIEVES CHIAO'S TROUBLES APPARENTLY STEM FROM ACCUSATIONS OF PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT WITH "GANG OF FOUR," AND ENVOYS' RETURN SEEM MORE PART OF SHUFFLE IN FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL THAN SIGNAL OF POLICY CHANGES.

CSM'S MORITZ (HK) OBSERVES THAT WHILE HUA STILL BEING PRAISED IN CHINESE MEDIA AS LOYAL FOLLOWER MAO, EMPHASIS HAS GRADUALLY SHIFTED, WITH MAO BEING COMMENDED FOR HAVING WISDOM TO RECOGNIZE HUA'S ABILITIES.

LAT'S LESLIE (HK 11/30) SAYS THOUGH SOME WESTERN DIPLOS/ JOURNALISTS STILL TRY CATEGORIZE CONTINUING CHARGES AGAINST "GANG OF FOUR," CHINESE "REVELATIONS" ARE SO ENCOMPASSING AS TO DEFY CLASSIFICATION. WHEN NEW CHARGE IS MADE IN PEKING, VARIATIONS QUICKLY POP UP IN PROVINCES; SEEMS BESIDE POINT TO QUESTION STORIES' UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCURACY--"MORE GERMANE PERHAPS IS THEIR ACCEPTABILITY AS FOLK TALES."

AMONG MIDDLETON'S (NYT PEKING) SALIENT CONCLUSIONS REACHED AFTER 3-WEEK PRC VISIT AT INVITATION OF DEFENSE/FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRIES, ARE: CHINESE ARMED FORCES BIG, BUT

POOR IN NEW ARMS; WHILE PRC IS NUKE POWER, APPARENTLY
LAGS BEHIND US/SOVIET IN MISSILE-DELIVERY SYSTEMS.

SULZBERGER (NYT PARIS) SEES RETURN TO PEKING OF ILYICHEV
AS MOST SIGNIFICANT SIGN OF NEW SOVIET DIPLO OFFENSIVE
WHOSE ULTIMATE MEANING REMAINS IMPOSSIBLE TO DISCERN.

WSJ'S KRAMER (HK) DISCUSSES BANK OF CHINA; SEES ITS ROLE
IN E-W TRADE INCREASING SOON. WHILE BANK'S OFFICIALS
AVOID ALL CONTACT WITH FOREIGNERS UNLESS BUSINESS/DIPLOMACY
DEMANDS IT, FINDS SOME INSIGHT INTO WAY IT OPERATES, BASED
ON TALKS WITH OTHER BANKERS/TRADERS.

WSJ'S HK STAFF REPORTER SAYS US COMMERCIAL BANKS HAVE
BEEN CUT OUT OF MUCH OF PROFITS ENGENDERED BY SINO-US
MULTI-BILLION DOL TRADE BECAUSE BANK OF CHINA WON'T FORM
CORRESPONDENT BANKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH US INSTITUTIONS
UNTIL AGREEMENTS REACHED ON SUCH MATTERS AS FROZEN ASSETS.
ADDS THAT SUCH AGREEMENTS UNLIKELY BE MADE SOON, SINCE
PEKING INSISTS TAIWAN STATUS BE RESOLVED FIRST. THUS,
WHILE INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED US BANKERS SIT ON SIDELINES,
THIRD-COUNTRY COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS PROFIT IN FINANCING
3-BILLION DOLS TRADE THAT HAS PASSED BETWEEN US-PRC SINCE
1972.

ARMBRUSTER (CSM TAIPEI) REPORTS GROG HAS CLOSED BOOK ON
CONTROVERSIAL "TAIWAN POLITICAL REVIEW." SAYS WITHOUT
PUBLICATION IN WHICH TO SET FORTH VIEWS, ROC DISSIDENTS
FIND THEMSELVES MORE TIGHTLY WITHIN GOVT'S GRIP THAN
BEFORE--AND UNLIKELY THEY WILL BE ABLE START ANOTHER MAG
IN NEAR FUTURE.

CSM REPRINTS "CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY" SUMMARY QUESTIONING
"PACIFIC CULTURAL FOUNDATION"-SPONSORED CONGRESSIONAL
JUNKETS TO ROC. SAYS DOS HAS TOLD INQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL
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AIDES IT IS UNDER IMPRESSION PCF IS GROG FRONT ORGANIZA-
TION SET UP TO CIRCUMVENT STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS PRO-
HIBITING US OFFICIALS ACCEPTING FOREIGN GOVTS GIFTS.
NEVERTHELESS, NEITHER DOS NOR SENATE/HOUSE ETHICS CMTEs
WILLING ADVISE AIDES/MOC'S FLATLY NOT ACCEPT TRIPS. AS
RESULT, SINCE PCF CLAIMS BE PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WITH NO
GROC TIES, THOSE INVITED ON TRIPS ARE LEFT FREE TO DECIDE
FOR THEMSELVES WHETHER OR NOT ACCEPT.
FOR THEMSELVES WHETHER OR NOT ACCEPT.

15. HONG KONG

BUTTERFIELD (NYT) NOTES THAT SHOPPING NO LONGER BARGAIN,
DUE SUCCESSFUL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF PAST 5 YRS/WORLD-
WIDE INFLATION/DECLINE US DOL--THOUGH GOOD BUYS CAN STILL

BE FOUND BY KNOWLEDGEABLE. MENTIONS SEASONAL EATING
ACTIVITIES, INCL CRAB FROM SHANGHAI AREA. DISCUSSES BOATS
AVAILABLE, HI COST APARTMENT RENTAL. KISSINGER

KOREAN AFFAIRS" NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON WHAT IMPACT

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